

(d) removing the solid plug from the [surface] solid support, wherein the rare cell adheres to the solid plug,

whereupon the rare cell is separated from other cells in the cell population.

2. (Amended) A method for analyzing DNA of a rare cell in a cell population comprising:

(a) applying cells from the cell population to a [surface] solid support;
(b) [determining] determining the location of the rare cell on the [surface] solid support and overlaying the cells with a solidifiable material, wherein a cover layer is formed;

(c) illuminating the cover layer with light focused at the location identified in step (b) whereupon a solid plug is formed from the solidifiable material at the location;

(d) removing the solid plug from the [surface] solid support, wherein the rare cell adheres to the solid plug; and,

(e) [analysing] analyzing the DNA of the rare cell.

5. (Amended) A method for analyzing DNA of a rare cell in a cell population comprising:

(a) applying cells from the cell population to a [surface] solid support;
(b) [determining] determining the location of the rare cell on the [surface] solid support, and overlaying the cells with a solidifiable material, wherein a cover layer is formed,

(c) illuminating the cover layer with light focused at the location identified in step (b), whereupon a solid plug is formed from the solidifiable material at the location;

(d) removing the solidifiable material which is not solidified;

(e) treating the [surface] solid support with a DNA-inactivating agent;

(f) removing the solid plug from the [surface] solid support to expose the rare cell; and

(g) analyzing the DNA of the rare cell.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the analysis is carried out after the rare cell is removed from the [surface] solid support.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the amplification is carried out after the rare cell is removed from the [surface] solid support.

18. (Amended) A kit comprising [instructions describing the method of claim 5] a container comprising slides and at least one of a photoreactive cross-linker, a photoinitiator, and a plastic monomer.

19. (Amended) A method for amplifying DNA of a rare cell in a cell population comprising:

(a) applying cells from the cell population to a [surface] solid support;

(b) [determining] determining the location of the rare cell on the [surface] solid support, and overlaying the cells with a photodepolymerizable coating, wherein a cover layer is formed;

(c) heating the cover layer to make it solid;

(d) illuminating the cover layer with light focused at the location identified in step (b) to solubilize the [material] cover layer at the location, whereby solubilized material is produced at the location;

(e) removing the [solubilized] solubilized material; whereupon the rare cell is exposed; and,

(f) amplifying the DNA of the rare cell.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the photodepolymerizable coating is a novalak resin.